



HAMATEURCHATTER



One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol. 15 No. 3 - March, 2007

PRESIDENT'S LETTER **by Howard, AB9FH**

Here we are already in March. I keep thinking that the year has just started. It looks like a full month. There is the Wisconsin QSO Party (which will be history by the time you read this), we have our club meeting with special guests Gordon West, WB6NOA, and Bob Inderbitzen NQ1R, the Technician class will be finishing, and SuperFest will be here to finish it out.

Hopefully, you will have had the chance this month to be a mentor to some of the new Tech's or new Generals who are now getting into HF operating. Close to half of the deluge of applicants at our last testing session were upgrades. While it's easy to anticipate the annoyance of an influx of the newbies, this is also the very best time to help them out in learning protocol and good operating practices.

March also means the beginning of severe weather season.

Well, beginning of the get-ready-for severe weather season, anyway. Check the club website Links page for a link to the schedule for spotter training. Speaking of the website, I will repeat my call for help in keeping things up to date. I use a free program called NVU, which makes it easy to add and edit things. You don't have to be a programmer or even know HTML.

If you have ideas for future meeting programs, please share them with a member of the Board. Comments about programs are also useful to us. I have several DVDs generously provided by Ted, WA9RDI, of previous programs, and they don't do anybody any good floating around in my briefcase.

If I can unearth my soldering iron, I hope to talk with some of you soon on the Friday night 10m net. So, until March 29th, 73 and good operating from Hartford!

Howard, AB9FH

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NETS HEARD IN THE MILWAUKEE AREA

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY			
Daily	6:00-8:00 AM	14.2900	Milwaukee / Florida (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130- ARRL voice news
Daily	5:15-6:00 AM	3.9850	Wisconsin SSB net	Wed.	9:00 PM	145.130- MAARS Swapnet
Daily	7:30 AM	144.1550	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+ Weather & Swap Net
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net	Thu.	9:00 PM	50.160 6 m. SSB Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.8650-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)	Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910- Computer Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.4450	Emergency Net	Fri. 8:00 PM 28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)	
Mon.	8:45 PM	147.1650	ARRL voice news (ARES)	Fri. 9:00 PM 145.390-	W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10 mtr. net	
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sat	9:00 PM	146.910- Saturday Night Fun Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	147.1650	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)	Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985 QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.1600	6 m. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net	Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565 X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.2500	Badger Contesters (SSB)	Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800 FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo Swapnet
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365 MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net	Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910- Information Net
				Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910- Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600 KHz -- 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 meters and above are USB

HAMATEURCHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.⁰⁰ per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Again this year, the March 29th meeting will feature **Gordon West, WB6NOA**, and joining Gordon West will be **Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R**, **ARRL Marketing Manager**.

Our April 26th meeting will feature Howard Parks, AB9FH, who will talk about "Emergency Response" along with our Nominations for elections in May.

The May MRAC meeting will feature our Annual Auction and Election of three Board of Directors members.

Our June meeting will probably be centered around Field Day which is Saturday and Sunday, June 23rd & 24th, this year.

CREDITS

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

AB9FH WB9PTC
KF9PU KB9LRD KB9ZNC

Our thanks also goes to:

Rita Doneis, Hal Newton, and Tom Fuszard, for proofreading the 'Chatter this month.

Thanks also to Dick Wood



for mailing the hard copy of the 'Chatter and to Joe Schwarz, who Emails the 'Chatter.

Howard Parks, who administers our Web Site.

Mark Tellier, Tom Fuszard, and Tom Czaja who manage our VEC.

T h a n k Y O U !

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2/22/07

By SARAH PARKS, KB9ZNC

Howard, AB9FH, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

The mic was being troublesome, so it was not passed around. Everyone identified loud and clear.

Following Buzz Talk, the minutes were read. Pancho, KA9OFA, made a motion to accept the minutes, and Dick, WB9PTC, seconded the motion.

There again was no treasurer's report, though Howard assured the membership the matter will be settled as soon as possible.

Tom Fuszard, KF9PU, explained the financial system regarding the VEC fund, and reminded the members that as of 11:00 p.m. that night non-code Techs will have the same privileges as code Techs. He also clarified that his request for non-code Techs to pass the code test was based on information given at the time, and gave some information on test sessions. Howard, AB9FH, noted that the by-laws would have to be amended to allow for the VEC to have a separate account.

Warren, K9IZV, gave some information on weather spotting training.

Howard encouraged membership to come forward

with ideas for the 90th anniversary.

Dave, WB9BWP, informed everyone that Gordon West, WB6NOA, and Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, (ARRL marketing manager) will be visiting next month. Mark, AB9CD, requested club info be available.

For new business, Howard mentioned the fact that Techs will have HF privileges, which will make them capable of joining in our 10-meter net. Tom, KF9PU, also commented that the QPC is in the preliminary stages of changing the Extra class question pool.

Ted Stiller, WA9RDI, (not present) recorded the previous meeting program and copies were available.

There was a report on our Tech class; four members of Milwaukee's Boys and Girls Club attended. Howard said that the class would be held for five more weeks, and any help or new students are welcome. The classes are held at AES from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays. A General class may be held this summer. Howard noted that he would not be able to run a whole 10-week long General class, so it may just be a kind of study group.

Pancho, KA9OFA, moved to adjourn the meeting; and the motion was seconded by Tom, KF9PU.

DAYTON HAMVENTION

BUS TRIP - FCARC

Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring a bus trip to Dayton Hamvention From May 17 - 20, 2007.

The FCARC will be responsible for :

- ✓ Itinerary of travel
- ✓ Contact names and information
- ✓ Arrange group dinner locations

For further information and application forms contact:

<http://www.fcarc.us>

or FCARC President, Brian, KB9LRD

920-851-2836 Cell

920-730-8485 Home

Kb9lrd@new.rr.com

Please make reservations ASAP to ensure your being included

OTA CW CLASS

Don't forget our **OTA (Over The Air) CW** Practice and Operating Practices on our W9RH repeater at 145.39 MHz with a PL of 127.3Hz.

Dick McNew, WB9PTC, is currently doing the honors on our repeater. Not only is he sending CW, but he also talks about operating procedures, which is actually pretty interesting. He also has some of the other more experienced operators chiming in from time to time. When he is unable to do it, sometimes Buck, K9RYW, takes over.

The classes are currently on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. He may also do it on Monday.

Please, check in and give them some feedback so they will know how they are doing.

REMEMBERING AN ELMER AND A FRIEND, ART, W9VSO-SK

By Tom Fuszard, KF9PU

News of a friend's death always strikes a chord. Such was the case when I heard during last month's club meeting that Art Vahovius, W9VSO, had passed away.

I met Art and his wife, Terry, at the MRAC Christmas party in 1990. As the mic was passed around for introductions, I mentioned I was interested in meeting someone who could help me get into amateur radio. Art's eyes lit up. That comment began a friendship that spanned 1,000 miles and over 15 years.

Perennial snowbirds, Art and Terry left for Gulf Shores, Ala., later that December. I visited him after they returned in March, 1991. As we walked around his Lake Beulah property that cool Saturday afternoon, Art pointed out his numerous antennas, including dipoles, a Yagi, and a 10 meter vertical.

My initiation to amateur radio came quickly. Soon after dinner that day we ambled over to his desk. Art flipped on the rig and tuned around 160 meter, eventually locating a ham on the band. Art keyed up and asked the operator if he could chat with me for a bit. "Sure," the other ham replied, and Art slid the microphone over to me. "It's yours," he said.

Despite numerous contacts on CB, I was tongue-tied. Our conversation naturally centered around equipment. As hard as I tried, I couldn't recall much of what I had learned about Art's antennas. And despite sitting just inches from his rig, I blanked on the model number. (I eventually located the tag and relayed the information: A Kenwood 940.)

I visited Art again in spring after earning my Technician ticket, and we discussed 2 meter equipment and operating. Art was a big fan of Ireland brand verticals and sold me a ½ wave telescoping antenna he had on hand. I use that to this day.

It was during these visits I discovered that Art was that rare amateur radio operator who stands apart for his contributions to the hobby. Art was the epitome of an Elmer, but more importantly, a good friend.

If there is one quality to describe an Elmer, it is patience. Patience to carefully explain—sometimes more than once—the basic concepts of operating and equipment. And patience in showing an extremely impatient newly minted ham how to apply connectors to coaxial cable.

Art and Terry eventually tired of the cold weather and escalating property taxes. They moved to Foley, Ala., about 20 miles north of Gulf Shores. Though 1,000 miles away, we were able to stay in touch via the magic of amateur radio.

Our occasional skeds (*schedules*) on 20 meters (Art was also a regular participant in the Milwaukee/Florida net), were an opportunity to maintain our friendship. Subject matter covered the gamut: ham radio, work, deer hunting, fishing, even love. "So, Tom, when am I going to dance at your wedding?" he used to ask. Sorry, Art. I'm still working on that.

It is hot and humid in Alabama, but Art was happy. He had purchased a double lot, and used the extra space to plant various fruit trees and build his antenna farm. Despite the occasional storm that knocked down antennas, he never second guessed their decision to move. "If I never see another snowflake," he used to say, "it'll be too soon."

"I bought a computer, Tom!" Art exclaimed over the air one afternoon. As he described it, the rig had more bells and whistles than the average casino (and cost almost as much, too). But he was happy. Now he could use e-mail to set up skeds and otherwise communicate off the air.

E-mail is often derided for lacking personality. Not with Art's messages. A radio operator in the Army many years ago, Art sprinkled his e-mails with common CW shorthand: ur, hr, wx, and es, among others.

Art's passing leaves a void. For me, it represents the loss of a friend. Though a generation apart, we bonded immediately. Our skeds always ran over an hour; the time seemed to fly when we were on the air. Ultimately, though, we had to wrap up. Always the gentleman, Art would sign off with, "It sure has been a pleasure, Tom." No kinder words can one person offer to another.

The amateur radio community has lost a valuable member, as well. Art loved ham radio. But more importantly, he loved helping others become a part of a hobby we enjoy so much.

A humble man, Art did not care for recognition or praise. Try to thank him, and Art would recall the advice his Elmer gave him decades ago: "Pass it on." That is the legacy—and challenge—he leaves for all of us.

EVENTS

MRAC General Meeting
Thu., - Mar. 29, 2007
7:00 p.m.

AES SuperFest 2007 *

VE Testing on SAT. ONLY

Fri. & Sat. - March 30-31, 2007
Amateur Electronic Supply (AES)
Milwaukee, WI
www.aesham.com

Madison Area Repeater Assn. Swapfest

Mandt Community Center
Stoughton, WI
Sat. - April 21, 2007
www.qsl.net/mara
147.75/15 Mhz



Cedarburg SwapFest

Sat. - May 5, 2007
Circle B Recreation Center
Cedarburg, WI
T/I on 146.97- (PL 127.3)
www.ozaukeeradioclub.org

HamFest, Computer & Hobby Show

Starved Rock Radio Club
Sat. & Sun. - June 2-3, 2007 •
Bureau Co. Fairgrounds
Princeton, IL
T/I on 146.955- (PL 103.5)
www.qsl.net/w9mks/hamfest.htm

**50th Annual HamFest
Six Meter Club of Chicago**
Sun. - June 10, 2007
Dupage Co. Fairgrounds
Wheaton, IL
T/I on 146.370/146.970 (PL 107.2)
www.qsl.net/k9ona

SMARC SwapFest 07

Sat. - July 7, 2007
American Legion Park
Oak Creek, WI
T/I on 146.52 simp

* indicates VE testing
is available.

VE NEWS

BY Tom, KF9PU

Thanks to the elimination of the More code exam, our Feb. 24 test session was the busiest since April 17, 2000, which followed restructuring. Fifty-two candidates stopped by. Of those, 25 applied for paperwork upgrades, mostly to General. All the remaining candidates took and passed their written exams. One examinee earned a "hat trick": He passed all three exams, and went from unlicensed to an Extra Class licensee.

VEs who assisted during this session included:

Larry Noldan.....KC9IJA
Hal Newton.....KB9OZN
Kent Christiansen.....N9WH
Tom Czaja.....KG9EE
Mark Bye.....KB9LDX
Mark Tellier.....AB9CD
Nels Harvey.....WA9JOB
Ken Hahn.....WK9H
Bob Diehl.....WB9KMT
Pat Cronin.....KB9RJE
Naomi Potash.....KC9GSI
Jim Cronin.....K9UGD
Pancho Doneis.....KA9OFA

Our next session will be held on
March 31 at AES.

VEC Financial report
for February:

Beginning balance: \$4,435.27
Income: \$150.00
Expenses: \$394.92
Ending balance: \$4,190.35

REMINDERS

Please check into our nets on Friday evenings.

Our **ten meter SSB** net is at
8:00 p.m. at 28.490 MHz \pm 5 KHz USB.

Our **two meter FM** net follows at
9:00 p.m. on our repeater at **145.390 MHz**, minus offset and a **PL of 127.3 Hz.**

Join us for Saturday morning breakfast at **Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr.** We usually meet at around 8:00 a.m., and order around 8:15 a.m. The food and the company are good and you don't have to be a member of the club to join us.

CQ Third Tuesday

Come to CQ Third Tuesday at:

Old Country Buffet

16750 West Bluemound Rd.
Brookfield, WI

This gathering of HAMs meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

We start arriving there at 11:00 a.m. and leave when we're full and/or all talked out.

EXAM SCHEDULE

BY TOM FUSZARD, KF9PU

MRAC VEC

Exam Schedule

Winter and Spring 2006

Sat., Mar. 31 at 9:00 a.m.

at AES Superfest

Sat., Apr. 28 9:30 a.m.. @ AES

Sat., May 26 9:30 a.m. @ AES

**AES = Amateur Electronic
Supply**

5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Here is a scheduled of the VE Test Sessions in
Janesville, Wisconsin for 2007:

April 21, 2007

July 21, 2007

October 20, 2007

The time and location is listed on the ARRL
Listed Test Sessions or on my **N9FRY** call page
under QRZ.COM.

The next meeting of MRAC
will be **Thursday, Mar. 29, 2007**
at **7:00 p.m.**

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please, DON'T call the church.

**Our Repeater,
Talk it up.
145.390- MHz
(127.3 Hz PL)**

**Our program for the
March 29th general
meeting will feature:**

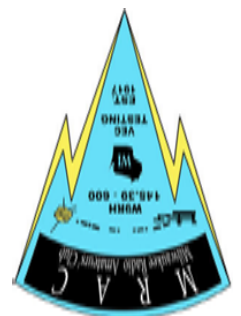
Gordon West, WB6NOA

and

**ARRL Marketing Manager,
Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R.**

Visit our new website at: **www.w9rh.org**

Our phone **(414) 332-MRAC**
332-6 7 2 2



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First Class